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EDITORIAL.



On another page will be found the first
official announcement with respect to
the International Philatelic Exhibition
to be held next year. It is the intention
of the working Committee to issue these
notices from time to time so that collectors
may keep in touch with the progress of the
arrangements. The Hall

International which has been engaged for
Philatelic Exhn. the Exhibition is a new one,
1906. having been open barely a

year, but it seems that it will
leave nothing to be desired in the way of a
locale for the Exhibition. The floor space
available is 13,000 square feet, all top lighted,
while there are several rooms available for
Committee rooms, etc. There are perfect
summer ventilating arrangements, fresh air
being forced through cold water into the Hall
at four different points each some 12 feet from
the ground, the exhausted air being carried
away by an electric fan in the roof. Further
for cooling purposes water is laid on to the top
of the roof and can be run down over the
glass when it gets too hot. There are also
outside sun-blinds to cover the glass at those
places when the sun shines most. The
Exhibition will be opened about the 23rd May.

The prospectus of the Exhibition has been
in active preparation and will be issued as soon
as it has been passed by the Grand Committee
which will soon be called together. The
Exhibition will probably be confined exclusively
to postage stamps as it is expected there will be
no room for entires, fiscals or philatelic
publications. The chief features of the prospect-
us will be an entirely new arrangement of
classes e.g. Great Britain and Colonies are not
to be shown in classes by themselves but will be
mixed with other countries, the different
countries being arranged in groups of approxi-
mately equal difficulty irrespective of their

political relations; the creation of a champion-
ship class in which all collections which
have won a gold medal in any previous
exhibition in London or Manchester will have
to compete but no collection, the owner of
which aspires to the highest honours, will be
barred in this class; a liberal provision has been
made for medium and junior collectors.

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We think it may be worth while to reproduce
here the following interesting note concerning
Hong Kong stamps overprinted "s. o." and
"s. d." contributed by Commander W. C.
Eaton (U.S. Navy) to *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* "In

"your answer to the correspond-
Hong Kong ents in Vol. I, No. 11, of the
Fiscals. "weekly, you say the letters "S.

"O." and "S. D." on Hong Kong
"stamps are probably the initials of the
"mercantile firms using the stamps. I confess
"I am considerably surprised at this statement
"from so learned an authority as Stanley
"Gibbons, or the Editor of the *Weekly* and beg
"permission to set your readers right. I
"happened to be in Hong Kong shortly after
"the stamps were put in use, and learned that
"this surcharge was an official one of the
"Treasury Department. The first surcharge
"S. O." stood for "Stamp Office" but as this
"was considered erroneous it was shortly
"changed to "S. D." which stood either for
"Stamp Department" or "Stamp Duty";
"after this length of time I am not quite certain
"which, but my recollection is that it was
"Stamp Department" i.e. in lieu of "Stamp
"Office." This surcharge made the stamps
"fiscal as well as postal. On learning of their
"existence I went personally to the Treasury,
"where I purchased the few remaining, only
"eight or ten of them being left, which I used
"upon letters, and it was at the Treasury that
"I gained the information given above. On
"inquiry at the Post Office as to whether
"fiscals could still be used as postage I was
"told that they could not be so accepted with
"the exception of these "S. O."s & "S. D."s.
"I was told that this surcharge, though making
"them available for fiscal use, did not affect
"their postal character, and they are, therefore,
"in the same class as other British Colonial
"Postage and Revenue" issues and should be
"catalogued among the postal issues. I have
"several on original covers which I myself
"used. These were not cancelled by favour of
"any postal clerk, but were regularly dropped
"in the ordinary letter-box and delivered in
"the usual way. A very interesting variety of
"these stamps exists. Among the eight or ten
"I purchased at the Treasury were two 2c. on
"which a vertical bar had been printed over
"the left curve of the "O" thus transforming
"it into a "D" in accordance with the correct
"surcharge. Of these I know of only two
"copies used postally, the one in my own
"collection and the other in the collection of
"Mr. Luff, of philatelic fame, both on original
"covers. I trust that the above will cause
"recognition of these stamps in the class where
"they belong i.e. of British Colonial "Postage
"and Revenue" stamps."